

NEWS

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Jersey City Man Admits Arranging Heroin Supply Line Between A New York City Wholesaler and a Camden Drug Distributor

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Jersey City man pleaded guilty today for his role in a conspiracy to establish a heroin supply line between a New York City heroin supplier and Camden drug distributor, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Peralta Pimental, 51, a.k.a. “Bolivia,” pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler to once count that charged him with conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Judge Kugler scheduled sentencing for April 4, 2007.

At his plea hearing, Pimental admitted his involvement in a drug conspiracy in which he agreed with others, including Cesar Severino, 45, of Camden, to establish a supply of heroin for distribution in Camden.

Pimental was arrested on July 28, 2006, and indicted on Oct. 25, 2006, along with a cocaine wholesale supplier, two leaders of a Camden street corner drug set and two co-conspirators, one of whom operated a stash house and the other a street level drug dealer. The Superseding Indictment charged the defendants with being part of a drug conspiracy that peddled powder and crack cocaine and protected its operations by threats and violence, including the murder of Severino.

A prior news release concerning the Indictment of the defendants can be found by following the appropriate links on the office web site at: www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj

Pimental admitted that in early 2006, while in the New York City area, he was approached by a man he knew as “Perico,” who told him that he had a heroin supplier in New York City and that he was looking to establish a heroin supply line into the Camden or Philadelphia area. After the discussion with Perico, Pimental met with Severino in Camden, who asked him if he had any drug connections up “north,” meaning Northern New Jersey or New York, Pimental admitted. After the conversation with Severino, Pimental traveled to New York to meet with Perico, who fronted him approximately 150 grams of heroin. Pimental admitted that he agreed to pay Perico \$10,500 for the heroin after it was sold.

Pimental admitted that he and a male known as “El Nino” transported the heroin to Camden and fronted it to Cesar Severino, who agreed to pay \$10,500 dollars for the heroin. After receiving the heroin from Pimental, Severino sold it in the Camden area, which included one deal whereby Severino fronted approximately 100 grams of heroin to a male known as Frank, who Pimental later learned was Francisco Martinez, 35, of Philadelphia, according to Pimental. When Frank did not pay Severino in a timely manner, Pimental arranged for Frank to give Severino seven ounces of crack cocaine as payment, Pimental admitted. According to Pimental, Frank gave Severino the seven ounces of crack cocaine on June 20, 2006. After Severino sold the crack cocaine to various individuals, Pimental learned that the crack cocaine was of poor quality. On June 22, during a telephone conversation, Severino told Pimental that the crack cocaine had too much baking soda in it and that he was getting too many complaints about it, Pimental admitted. The next day during a telephone conversation, Pimental told Severino that in the future he should check the quality of the drugs before he takes it and that he should see Frank about returning the bad crack cocaine to him.

According to the Superseding Indictment, Moises Hernandez, 25, of Camden, protected his drug operations through the use of violence, which included the July 8, 2006, murder of Severino. Severino allegedly supplied crack cocaine to a drug set controlled by Hernandez and co-defendant Tarrell Alford, 24, of Pennsauken.

Pimental admitted that he is aware that on the same night that Severino was murdered, a second individual was shot as well. According to Pimental, the second individual shot was "El Nino," the male that had come with him from New York when he brought Severino the 150 grams of heroin.

Pimental pleaded guilty to Count One of the Superseding Indictment with conspiring with others, including Cesar Severino, to distribute and possess with the intent distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, which carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of to life and a fine of \$4 million.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Kugler will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer in Newark; ICE, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins in Newark, Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor Joshua M. Ottenberg; the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent; the Camden Police Department, under the direction of Arturo Venegas, Supersession Executive; the Cherry Hill Police Department, under the direction of Chief Charlie Jones, the Pennsauken Police Department, under the direction of Chief John J. Coffey, the Maple Shade Police Department, under the direction of Chief Edmund C. Vernier, the Camden County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Acting Sheriff William Fontanez; and the member agencies of the H.I.D.T.A. task force .

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Troy A. Archie, Esq. Camden